

The Watchman and Southron.

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"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Aims' at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

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TO STICK TO WILSON PROGRAM

Count Bernstorff So Declares in Interview in The Paris Temps

WILL FULFILL CONDITIONS LAID DOWN

Says Germany Expects All the Other Powers Interested to Do Likewise.

Paris, Tuesday, March 25.—Germany is determined to stick closely to the Wilson program in making peace with the allies, Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, declared in an interview given the Berlin correspondent of The Temps, which that newspaper prints today.

"The armistice of November 11," said Count von Bernstorff, "was signed when all the powers interested had accepted the program of peace proposed by President Wilson. Germany is determined to keep to this agreement which history will regard, in a way, as the conclusion of a preliminary peace. She herself is ready to submit to the conditions arising from it and she expects all the interested powers to do the same. If these essential conditions of the Wilson program should be violated or neglected, and, specifically, if conditions are imposed which go beyond the program, the German delegates would find themselves in a position of say, non-possumus."

Count von Bernstorff advocated a plebiscite for Alsace-Lorraine and German-Austria.

"Germany's attitude on indemnities," continued the former ambassador, "is fixed by her acceptance of the note of November 5, 1918, whereby reparation is accorded for all damage done to the civil regulations of France and Belgium by German aggression. This note admits of the payment of no other indemnities."

Asked what the consequences would be of the failure to sign a peace, Count von Bernstorff replied:

"I am no prophet, but Bolshevism would gain immensely. The liberal world which has seen salvation for humanity in President Wilson's principles, would be terribly disappointed if peace were not made. Even the higher classes would be driven to despair. Remember that since the middle ages no idea has aroused the world's enthusiasm like a league of nations based on peace and justice, and who will dare to cause the idea to miscarry at the first test? I hope that a league of all the nations of the world will make common cause against the spectre of Bolshevism and triumph over it."

Oil Companies War

Standard and Gulf Refining in Contest Over Gasoline Price in Chattanooga.

Chattanooga, March 26.—On account of an apparent price cutting contest between the Standard Oil Company and the Gulf Refining Company here the past few days the retail price has been quoted by the Standard, while the Gulf Refining Company would sell gasoline 2 cents below the Standard price regardless of how far the prices would drop.

Gasoline Goes Down.

New Orleans, March 26.—Filling stations of the Standard Oil Company and the Gulf Refining Company here today received orders to sell gasoline for 19 cents a gallon. The former price was 23 cents. The Texas Oil Company, Liberty Oil Company and other smaller corporations are maintaining 23 cents, it was announced here.

Officers of the oil company are unable to explain the reasons for the reductions.

Cheap in Memphis.

Memphis, March 26.—Gasoline was being sold to consumers here today for 15 cents a gallon, a drop of 8 cents in two weeks. Tank wagons of the Standard Oil Company of Louisiana, were said to be selling gasoline today to filling stations in the city for 13 cents and wagons of the Gulf Refining Company for 14 cents a gallon.

More Armenian Horrors

Moslem Gendarmes Butcher Refugees At Aleppo Recently

Athens, March 27.—Constantinople advices report the massacre of Armenians by Moslem Gendarmes at Aleppo recently. It is reported that forty-eight Armenians were killed, more than one hundred seriously wounded and hundred and fifty slightly injured.

Madrid, Monday, March 24.—Martial law was proclaimed this morning. It is understood that constitutional guarantees may be suspended forthwith throughout Spain.

Berne, Monday, March 24.—The Bolshevik army en route to Hungary has reached Brody, according to the latest news received here.

SOME RAILROAD WORK BEING DONE

Director General Hines Says Improvements on Railway Property Will be Continued by Government

FAILURE OF APPROPRIATION HAMPERS WORK

Clear Statement of the Railroad Administration Plans Made to Give Public Understanding of Situation.

Pittsburgh, March 26.—Despite the financial predicament of railroads, the railroad administration plans to carry out as much of its improvement program as possible to keep labor employed and roads in repair. Walker D. Hines, director general of railroads, declared in an address tonight before the Pittsburgh Traffic Club. He asked for a more adequate understanding on the part of the public of problems facing the railroads during the war and in the immediate future, and presented suggestions for operating roads privately under public regulation as a permanent solution of the problem. He emphasized that the ability of the railroad administration to finance itself in spite of the failure of the appropriation does not mean that it does not need the appropriation as soon as congress meets again.

Referring to the improvement program, Mr. Hines said:

"Unfortunately the impression has gone out that the railroad administration has decided to cut off all improvement work, including additions and betterments and maintenance. This is not a fact. What has happened is that we are taking steps to give the railroad corporations full opportunity to determine whether they should assent to the work which they must finance. It is the intention of the railroad administration to carry forward just as much additions and betterments and maintenance work as possible in order that the railroads be kept in good repair and extended to meet the needs of the situation."

Proposing eventual private operation with government supervision Mr. Hines said:

"My own view is that a moderate guaranty on capital should be prescribed by the government so as to give a reasonable assurance to capital, and there should be a right to a participation in any profits made in excess of that guarantee so as to furnish the needed stimulus to private initiative."

"I further believe that the government should be strongly represented on the boards of directors, and that these government directors should constitute an important part of the regulating body which prescribed the rates so that this regulating body will know as necessities develop that the necessities are developing and will be able to meet the needs of the situation much more nearly at the time the needs arise than is possible at present."

I do not believe these fundamental changes can be successfully carried through except by the construction of a comparatively few great railroad corporations each of which will combine the prosperous and unprosperous roads as to present a fair average result and get away from the hopeless diversity in earnings which has existed in the past, and upon each of which will be practicable to have governmental representation."

Reviewing the government operations of railroads during the war, Mr. Hines said it was important that the public understand the accomplishment of three great results. First, conflict of priorities was eliminated and unification of control prevented serious congestion. Second, through government control railroad labor was given wage increases and improved working conditions. Third, the government provided for adequate financing of the roads which otherwise would have been almost impossible. None of these questions could have been dealt with properly except under government control, said Mr. Hines.

DeLavera in Dublin

President of Sinn Feiners in Capital of Ireland at Present.

Dublin, March 27.—Edward DeLavera, recently elected president of Ireland by the Sinn Fein parliament, has been in Dublin since Tuesday, according to statements made here.

Thirtieth at Charleston

Transport Mercury Arrived Today With More than Three Thousand Troops

Charleston, March 27.—The transport Mercury with more than three thousand troops of the Thirtieth Division arrived here today. Most of the troops are from the 118th infantry.

Paris, March 27.—The supreme council reports that 38 German ships have left German ports to be delivered to the allied powers. The larger ships will be used to repatriate American and Australian troops.

GOV. ALLEN SHOWS PREJUDICE

Southern Cotton Authorities Expose Ignorance and Ill Will of Kansan Toward The South

PLEASANTS AND THOMPSON ANSWER TIRADE OF DEMAGOGUE

Attack on Southern Farmer Uncalled for by Conditions and Statements Made By Governor Not In Accord With Facts.

New Orleans, March 26.—Characterizing as "rash, venomous and full of prejudice" the statement made recently by Governor Allen of Kansas that the cotton reduction plan in the South means the Southern cotton producer is attempting to "trade upon the miseries of the world," Governor Pleasants of Louisiana tonight declared that the Kansas executive "exhibited a gross ignorance of the true situation."

Governor Pleasants' statement was made upon his arrival from Memphis, where he was in conference with the farmers, bankers and merchants on the cotton reduction plans.

"The wheat farmers of Kansas," Governor Pleasants said, "are not growing their grain for less than it's worth, nor will they be compelled to carry a billion dollars worth of it for many months or years. The government is going to pay them \$2.25 for \$1 wheat and all of us are willing to pay the difference. We therefore are showing a great deal of altruism towards the suffering Kansas wheat farmer."

Declaring that the government price of wheat will be an inducement for the wheat growers to increase their crop the governor continued:

"Watch and see if they will not raise 1,200,000,000 bushels of wheat this year instead of the 600,000,000 they raised only a few years ago. They are risking a great overcrop to get the government's price and not because of the world's demands."

Turning his attention to diversification of crops in the South, Governor Pleasants said:

"The Southern farmer is going to raise a sufficiency of other things than cotton to maintain his family, make cotton a surplus crop and make the spinner come to him and buy at a reasonable and profitable price instead of being compelled to rush into the market and sell at most any price as heretofore."

Denying Governor Allen's statement that 35 cents a pound is being paid for cotton, the governor concluded by saying "Governor Allen's assertion that we are getting that much for cotton is not true. If the world would buy our cotton and pay that price we would have no complaint."

Montgomery, Ala., March 26.—"Henry J. Allen, governor of Kansas, in his telegram to Chairman of the Cotton Growers' Association of South Carolina, as reported by the Associated Press uttered a mean slur on the cotton growers of the South," declared J. O. Thompson, president of the Alabama Farmers' Protective League, today. "His claims that the wheat growers are doing all they can to increase the wheat yield that every man may have bread is amusing. Governor Allen knows that the wheat growers have made a good bargain with the government and he knows that they have tremendously increased their acreage at the expense of corn."

"No one believes that the wheat growers have so tremendously increased their wheat acreage because of their desire to feed the world. They are planting it because they have sold it at an exorbitant price."

"Mr. Allen speaks of 35 cents the farmer is receiving for his cotton, when he as any intelligent man should know that we can not get within ten cents of that price."

Admission to League

Peace Conference Conditions for Admission of Nations to Membership

Paris, March 27.—A proposal which seeks to settle the conditions required for admission to the league of nations has been presented to the peace conference. It says countries desiring membership must prove their ability to "ensure to all citizens, as well as all foreigners resident in their territories, full religious freedom and protection to person and property, liberty of the press and the free exercise of such rights of suffrage as may be guaranteed by their constitutions, customs or legislative enactments."

Paris, March 27.—Gen. Mangin, one of leading French officers, will be recalled from his command at Mayence, the newspapers announce, to undertake a mission, the character and scope of which "is indicated plainly by events in Hungary."

London, March 26.—Troops of the Kolchak government, who pierced the Bolshevik front on a thirty mile sector on March 11th have continued progress and the Bolshevik position is precarious, according to a Reuter dispatch from Omsk.

HUGHES SPEAKS ON COVENANT

Leading Republican Makes Suggestions for Changes in the Constitution of League of Nations

ADDRESS DELIVERED IN NEW YORK BEFORE BIG AUDIENCE

Former Supreme Court Justice Discusses Plan as Published at Paris and Criticises some of Its Features.

New York, March 26.—Seven amendments to the league of nations covenant, introduced primarily by their author to insure the American continent against European aggression to protect the United States from enforced administration of foreign territory and to revoke the "trouble breeding" guaranty of the existing political independence of member nations, were proposed here tonight by Charles E. Hughes.

Minor suggestions of the former Republican presidential candidate were that definite limitation be placed upon the league's field of inquiry, reserving to the several nations exclusive control of immigration, tariffs and other internal problems, that provision be made for the withdrawal of states from the organization, and that what he termed an ambiguity as to the requirement of unanimous decisions by the league be cleared up.

In an address before the Union League Club reviewing exhaustively the terms of the proposed covenant, Mr. Hughes declared that the American people "were entitled to a better piece of work." He added that much would have been gained "if at the outset" part of the time expended in its praise had been devoted to its correction.

The amendments, Mr. Hughes suggested "aside from formal improvements" were stated as follows:

1. Explicit provision, as to the requirement of unanimity of decision.
2. Suitable limitation as to the field of the league's inquiries and action so as to leave no doubt that the concerns of states, such as immigration and tariff laws, are not embraced.
3. Providing that no foreign power shall hereafter acquire by conquest, purchase, or in any other way, any possession on the American continent or the islands adjacent thereto.
4. Providing that the settlement of purely American questions shall be remitted primarily to the American nations, and that European nations shall not intervene unless requested to do so by the American nations.
5. Omitting the guaranty (of the existing independence of member nations) of Article X.
6. Providing that no member of the league shall be constituted a mandatory without its consent and no European or Asiatic power shall be constituted a mandatory of any American people.
7. Providing that any member of the league may withdraw at its pleasure on a specified notice.

Mr. Hughes criticised severely the tenth article of the covenant under which the "high contracting parties" undertake to "respect and preserve against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all states members of the league." Conceding the argument that this clause had been included to the nations born of war, the speaker regarded it as "a trouble breeder" and not a "peace maker."

Mr. Hughes declared that he saw neither "severity nor hardship" in the articles relating to investigations and recommendations by the league for the reduction of armaments. He regarded the provision for arbitration as confined generally to "existing practice" and "falling far short of any positive assurance against war."

Emphasizing that submission of internal disputes to the league authority is optional, as also is the decision of member nations to go to war to enforce an award of the arbitration authorities made after such a submission, he found merit, however, in the "cooling off" process set up in the allowance of three months for consideration of the arbitrators on the decision before disputes may go to war.

The provision for reports by member nations of impending disputes, the former supreme court jurist asserted, "gives voice to the lesson of the great war. It commits to no action, leaves the door open for the only cooperation that can be properly contemplated; that is, the cooperation when the time of the exigency is deemed to be advisable."

Mr. Hughes said that definite recognition should be made in the league of nations covenant of the Monroe doctrine.

Aircraft Insurance.

London, Feb. 28. (Correspondence).—It was officially stated to a questioner in the House of Commons that the excess of premiums over payments under the government aircraft insurance scheme which provided payment of damages through loss from air raids, amounts to more than 10,000,000 pounds.

Zurich, March 25.—Former emperor Charles and family arrived in Switzerland today. They will reside near Kirschbach.

CHANGES MADE IN COVENANT

American Amendment to Protect Nations Against the Influx of Foreign Labor.

MONROE DOCTRINE IS MADE SAFE

Another Important Amendment Affects Article 8, Which Refers to the Reduction of Armament

Paris March 25.—An American amendment to protect nations against the influx of foreign labor was adopted today by the league of nations commission. It affirms the right of any country in the control of matters solely within diplomatic jurisdiction.

Another important amendment to the league covenant affects article 8, which empowers the executive council to formulate a plan for the reduction of armaments. The language of the article is altered so as to limit the powers of the council to a simple recommendation to the governments affected.

President Wilson would have offered the amendment at the meeting of the league of nations commission last night, but discovered a slight imperfection in the text and reserved the right to submit it later.

The American peace delegation, it is understood, has definitely agreed upon the amendment it will offer to article 10 of the covenant of the league of nations to safeguard the Monroe Doctrine.

The amendment provides that agreements under the covenant shall not be construed as an infringement upon the principles of international policies heretofore generally recognized.

As framed the amendment will be an appendix to the article pledging members of the league to respect and preserve against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of members.

Mention of the Monroe Doctrine by name is avoided purposely.

Inasmuch as President Wilson and Col. House on several occasions have discussed the subject with Premiers Lloyd George, Clemenceau and Orlando, it is assumed the president assured himself of favorable action in advance of the submission of the amendment to the commission.

Other changes in the covenant made at last night's meeting and which are regarded by the American delegates of great importance were calculated to meet suggestions and objections emanating from America. They include a substitute for the phrase "states members of the league" in article 10 and elsewhere in the covenant, thus meeting objections that the latter term created membership.

Provision also was made for the revision of the covenant itself from time to time, thus meeting the objection that it is inflexible. The admission of other States was provided for, but it was agreed that any change in numbers must be with due regard to the proportion between the representation of the large and small powers on the executive council as defined in the articles creating the council.

Many changes in the text of the covenant were made with the special purpose of clarification and removing ambiguities to which attention had been called by speakers in the United States. Some doubt is entertained in some quarters as to the wisdom of amendments affirming absolute control of countries over their internal affairs, as possibly prohibiting the extension of outside aid to put down revolutions, and it is possible this language may be further modified.

One amendment to be submitted adopts a provision that powers which are not specifically delegated to the league are reserved to individual members. Nothing has yet been done to affirmatively state the right of a nation with regard to its withdrawal from the league, nor has the Japanese amendment regarding racial discrimination been reached. This latter, however, has been modified so as to simply declare for the right of just treatment and is likely to be accepted.

A French amendment providing for the maintenance of a general military staff has been proposed but thus far it has not been accepted.

Article 10 of the league of nations draft reads as follows:

"The high contracting parties shall undertake to respect and preserve against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all States members of the league. In case of any such aggression or in case of any threat of danger of such aggression the executive council shall advise upon the means by which the obligation shall be fulfilled."

The Hungarian Government

New Government Composed of Majority of Jews.

Basel, March 27.—The new Hungarian government consists of twenty-four Jews and six Christians, the Vienna Reichspost says. The newspaper expresses the belief that Magyars will not submit to this government.

SAYS ALLIES BUNGLED PEACE

London Press Passes Sharp Criticism on Paris Proceedings

LEAGUE OF NATIONS PROJECT IS BLAMED

Too Much Idealism, Say Some—The Food Problem Causes Unrest and Resentment Among Lower Classes.

London, March 25.—Morning newspapers unanimously charge the Paris Peace Conference with responsibility for Hungary's embracing Bolshevism and the general dissatisfaction over the delay of peace but the manner in which it has incurred responsibility is variously explained.

While treating the Hungarian episode more lightly than others, because it does not believe the whole country will, imitating Budapest, become Bolshevik, the Post accuses the conference of delaying peace, while its idealists are "following the will-o'-the-wisp called the League of Nations." It also expresses its belief that certain international financial interests are working against the independence of Poland.

The newspapers panacea is to treat the diplomatic situation as it was treated militarily when everything was entrusted to Marshal Foch and it suggests that supreme direction be given Premier Clemenceau so that "probable failure arising from divided councils may be avoided."

The Telegraph ascribes the gravity of the situation to a "dangerous miscalculation which assumed a much longer war and left the Allies unprepared as to a policy of peace."

The Chronicle thinks Hungary has given a healthy shock to public opinion and that if the council of ten responds, it may prove a blessing in disguise.

"If the council of ten," it says "had not for many months shown marked incapacity for action, no one need doubt the result. *** The Allies held an almost irresistible weapon, namely food, but by sheer bungling and by disagreements and procrastinations have blunted its edge."

The newspaper maintains the remedy now is prompt and combined military action against the Magyar government.

"Conferences, delays and a refusal to face the Russian problem are directly responsible for the present disquieting situation, says the Mail.

"While the conference talks, the Bolsheviks act. The fruits of immense sacrifices on the battlefield are being imperiled because the conference cannot attend to the business for the dispatch of which it exists."

The Daily News deduces that the League of Nations has been an obstacle to the conclusion of peace. It says:

"The tragic situation is due to the failure of the Allies to provide the Central Empires with food and raw materials while the conference has been attempting to reconcile the policy of territorial spoliation with the spirit of the League of Nations."

The newspaper also condemns the refusal of the Peace Conference to recognize and make terms with the Russian Bolshevik government.

Husbands are Scarce

One and A Half Million Women Will Never Have the Chance of Marriage.

London, March 5.—There are one and a half million women in this country who will never have the chance of getting married, is the statement of Miss Norah March, editor of National Health. In 1917 there was a surplus of 1,337,000 marriageable women over marriageable men, and since then there have been the war casualties of 1918.

Miss March says that emigration will remove a few of these surplus women while economic independence will prevent women from marrying men for the sake of a home.

"Many men and women in this age of modern advancement," says Miss March, "are getting different views from those held in the past, and regard women's right to motherhood as a supreme individual prerogative. Having such a wide choice of wives, the question remains as to whether the men will choose the best and strongest women, as upon the women will depend largely the future human race, since the rest of manhood has been cut off. The choice really rests with the woman for with her is the right of refusing an offer of marriage."

Geneva, March 27.—William Hohenzollern, alarmed by the receipt of threatening letters, intends to leave Holland and seek refuge in Switzerland, according to the newspaper La Suisse.

London, March 25.—Six Bolshevik regiments on the northern Don front have been driven over the Donetz river by Don Cossacks, an undated dispatch from Ekaterinodar declares.

Copenhagen, March 26.—Count Karolyi, former president of Hungary, has been arrested and will be brought before the revolutionary tribunal for trial, a Vienna dispatch states.